

Our Bible School

SHORT SERMONS

Text: Prov. 23: 7.—For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

Solomon wrote this of the man "who hath an evil eye," a man of bad designs which he hides under a cloak of friendliness. 'Do not trust the outward appearance of him,' Solomon would say. 'Have no confidence in his sweet smiles.' 'What you see is deceptive. The real man is under cover. His heart and his lips are far apart, but just what he thinks in his heart, so he is.' Wise old Solomon had had experience of men when he wrote this.

Now we may profit spiritually by this proverb if we attend to it closely. Let us see for example how much distance there is between our inner and our outer man, and then let us see what that inner man is like, for the inner man is the ego. Truly the outer man presents a fair appearance; he is apparently discreet, pious, honest, devout. So far so good, but have you seen beneath the skin? Is he sound to the core? Have you never seen a good looking apple, skin and color all right, but which nevertheless was eaten out and rotten at the core. Now as that apple was at the core, so was it. Look into your heart, my man, and carefully note what you see there.

A sure indication of your spiritual condition may be found in the quality of your thoughts. Pause for a moment, and let the usual procession of your thoughts pass in review before you. There goes a gaudy throng of ambition thoughts, vanity thoughts, luxury thoughts, self-indulgence thoughts. There is another busy company of covetous thoughts. See them endeavoring in secret ways to overreach their neighbors. But what besmirched and be-draggled crowd is that coming now, leering with disreputable faces, and foul with offensive breath. They are your unchaste, impure thoughts. Put all these together, make a composite picture of them, and that picture would be—you.

Getting on a somewhat higher plane, let us inquire of our inner conceptions of duty; are they strict or remiss? Are they leavened with a proper sense of our obligation and of God's authority, or are they leavened with carelessness, indifference and self-indulgence? Again what are our conceptions of holiness, what are our thoughts about others, either concerning their temporal or spiritual welfare? Do we care for anybody? Do we think at all, or a little, or very much as God thinks?

Text: John 12: 32.—And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

When any great thing is to be done, when any mighty revolution has to be accomplished, men instinctively look for a capable leader; and it is a surprising fact in history that in these supreme exigences the right man, the competent leader, has always appeared, as if his coming was an act of Providence, which it doubtless was. The univer-

sal need of a capable spiritual leader reached its climax at the end of four thousand years of sin and misery. Mankind, instinctively conscious of its moral need, conscious of an unfulfilled destiny, groaning under an oppression, crushed beneath a yoke which it could not shake off, awaited the promised Deliverer who alone could lift it out of its horrible doom.

There are and always have been counterfeit leaders, and counterfeit saviors, who seek to exploit human needs for private gain. We find them in politics, in religion; false kings, false christs, seeking their own glory. A multitude of them thronged that period of the world's history, that climacteric period, when the coming of the true Christ was imminent. And the strange part of it is, that men follow them. A multitude went after Theudas. Let those creeds beware who boast a vast multitude of votaries. Such throngs are unusual on the "narrow way."

Not a leader in temporal, external matters, not outwardly attractive, not walking in the pomp and circumstances of earthly glory did the true Christ come. Isa. 53: 2. But he was a spiritual leader, a captain of salvation, a moral hero, (verse 24) voluntarily devoting himself to a death of horrible anguish that he might save the enemies who crucified him. "If I be lifted up." Behold him lifted up on the cross. Behold him again lifted up out of the tomb. Behold him yet again lifted up into heaven. Oh, thou heart of infinite love; enlarge our hearts that we may love thee as we ought.

Behold the result. All men are drawn to him, and will be drawn to him. Nearly two thousand years have passed by, but is the drawing power of that love growing less? Nay it increases with the lapse of the ages, drawing all men to his glorious personality, putting his love and his purity and his peace into their hearts, making saviors of them, and sending them to lighten the world's darkness and comfort the world's sorrows.

Drawing all men also to his sublime destiny, to be glorified with him in the Father's presence; to be with him in the place which he has gone to prepare, and to see his glory.

The Mission Field

WASHINGTON CITY ECHOES

Again our pastor is away from the city for awhile, perhaps nearly two weeks. We miss him very much, especially just at this time, as the little flock here continually needs its shepherd. We are glad to state that our little band of Christians is marching onward and that new recruits are being added to the ranks. Two dear sisters joined us on Oct. 16th and another on the 23rd. I believe Brother Lyon mentioned the first two in his last letter and also referred to the last sister, who was convicted while witnessing the baptism of the first two. It is worthy of special notice in the case of this last sister, as she can neither speak nor understand the English language, and only understands the German language, yet she has been a faithful attend-

ant at our Sunday morning services for some time and seems to enjoy the services and to get spiritual blessings from them. Surely this is evidence of hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and the Lord is abundantly able to fill her, according to his promise. How often I have watched her, during the preaching of the Word, reading in her German Testament, and I have been impressed with her earnestness, and the beams of sunshine that would light up her countenance as she would get some new light of blessing from the Word. Surely this is an example from which we may get a lesson of consecration and devotion.

We are also glad to note that the attendance of our Sunday-school is increasing, and we hope to gain many new scholars during the winter. We realize that the work of the Sunday-school is very important, and we shall try to make it more interesting and effective than we have before.

We can't refrain from again calling attention to our needs here of a church building. I wish that our brotherhood could wake up to a *practical* realization of this need as we see it. Also the work here needs your earnest support, both of your prayers and of your means with which the Lord is blessing you. The lack of means for the support of the work is the special thing which at this time has taken Brother Lyon out of the city, to ascertain if he cannot stir up more interest in the *practical* support of our needs. We hope he may be so successful that it will not be necessary for him to soon go on this mission again, because there is other work here which demands all the time of the pastor, and which necessarily suffers during his absence.

Last Sunday morning we had the pleasure of having Brother Stoddard with us, who preached to us in the morning. After reading the first chapter of Genesis, on "God's Plan," he brought to us many good lessons and told us how wonderfully and bountifully God had provided for all our comforts and needs. He also taught us that each of us should have some definite plan, or object in life for which we should work. That we should decide according to the talents which God has given us to improve. Too many people, he said, go through this world without any definite object in view. This is not as God would have us go. Let us each ask God to reveal to us our special mission, and having found it, to devote all our energy, time and resources to it, and we may then rest assured, our life will be a success. Fraternally,

R. I. GARBER.

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"A great many people are thinking that we need new measures, that we need new churches, that we need new organs, new choirs, and all these new things. That is not what the church of God needs today. It is the old power that the Apostles had."—*D. L. Moody.*